

Protecting across borders

Citation for published version (APA):

Serra Mingot, E. (2018). *Protecting across borders: Sudanese families across the Netherlands, the UK and Sudan*. [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University, Aix-Marseille University]. Datawyse / Universitaire Pers Maastricht. <https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20181217em>

Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2018

DOI:

[10.26481/dis.20181217em](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20181217em)

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Please check the document version of this publication:

- A submitted manuscript is the version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.
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PROPOSITIONS

accompanying the dissertation

Protecting across Borders

Sudanese Transnational Families across the Netherlands, the UK and Sudan.

by Ester Serra Mingot

1. For people with a mobility history and future mobility plans, the current geographically-fixed social security systems can be insecure. In such situations it is safer to invest in family and other assets that can be easily accessed and circulated (e.g. education) across time and space.
2. In a context of increasingly restrictive migration regulations and welfare regimes, both migrants and civil servants must sometimes 'break the rules' of the system in order to make the system work and accommodate the needs of individuals and institutions.
3. Addressing transnational social protection from the perspective of the extended family shows that migrants' decisions to move or stay in a specific location are not based on the nation-state and its welfare system *per se*, but on the migrants' and their families' needs and how best to fulfil them, formally or informally, now and in the future.
4. Care work is a complex but crucial element in the social protection arrangements of transnational families. Just like care-giving, care-receiving is also a burdensome and gendered process, in which care-receivers do play an active role in protecting themselves against the consequences of unsolicited care.
5. Multi-sited matched-sample research provides invaluable insights on the socio-culturally embedded web of obligations and responsibilities that bind family members together and shape social protection arrangements locally and across borders.
6. Although social protection has traditionally focused on formal state-provided provisions, given the increasing number of mobile individuals, there is a need to find and implement an appropriate mixture of formal, semi-formal and informal institutional forms that are able to support communities, families and individuals within and across the borders of nation-states.
7. In order to develop a global social protection system that caters for the needs of increasingly transnational populations, there is a need to look beyond migrants' individual needs in the receiving countries and consider migrants' families back home, with whom they share attachments and responsibilities.
8. Rather than making newly arrived asylum-seekers fully dependant on the receiving welfare-states during the time—often years—they spend waiting for their status, asylum-seekers should be allowed to work and contribute to the social security system from the first day they arrive.
9. "A child is a child of everyone" (Sudanese proverb).
10. "Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans" (John Lennon).
11. "You cannot say 'no' to the people you love, not often. That's the secret. And then when you do, it has to sound like a 'yes'. Or you have to make them say 'no'. You have to take time and trouble" (Mario Puzo, *The Godfather*).